

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 10-42 have been cancelled and claims 43-54 have been added as new claims reciting the limitations of allowed claims 1-7 and 9. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner for indicating claims 1-7 and 9 have been allowed, and as agreed by telephone conversation on February 24, 2007, we have cancelled the remainder of the claims and incorporated the allowed claim limitations into new method and means-plus-function claims mitigating the need for a new search. For this reason, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

II. Rejection of Claims 21-27, 29 and 41 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-27, 29 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadahiro (U.S. 6,237,136) in view of Dumarot, *et al.* (U.S. 6,059,842). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Claims 21-27, 29 and 41 have been cancelled; therefore, this rejection is moot.

III. Rejection of Claims 10-18, 20, 30-40 and 42 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-18, 20, 30-40 and 42 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadahiro (U.S. 6,237,136) and Dumarot, *et al.* (U.S. 6,059,842) in view of Stern, *et al.* (U.S. 2003/0233349). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Claims 10-18, 20, 30-40 and 42 have been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP310US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP

/Himanshu S. Amin/

Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731